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ABSTRACT

One of a series of instructional materials produced by the Literacy Council of Alaska, this booklet provides information about common household poisons. Using a simplified vocabulary and shorter sentences, it provides statistics concerning accidental poisonings: a list of the places poisons are usually found in the home: steps to make the home safe for children, adolescents, and adults: suggestions for the use and storage of medicines: lists of dangerous products that are not always thought of as poisonous: and an explanation of what to do if someone is poisoned. (FL)

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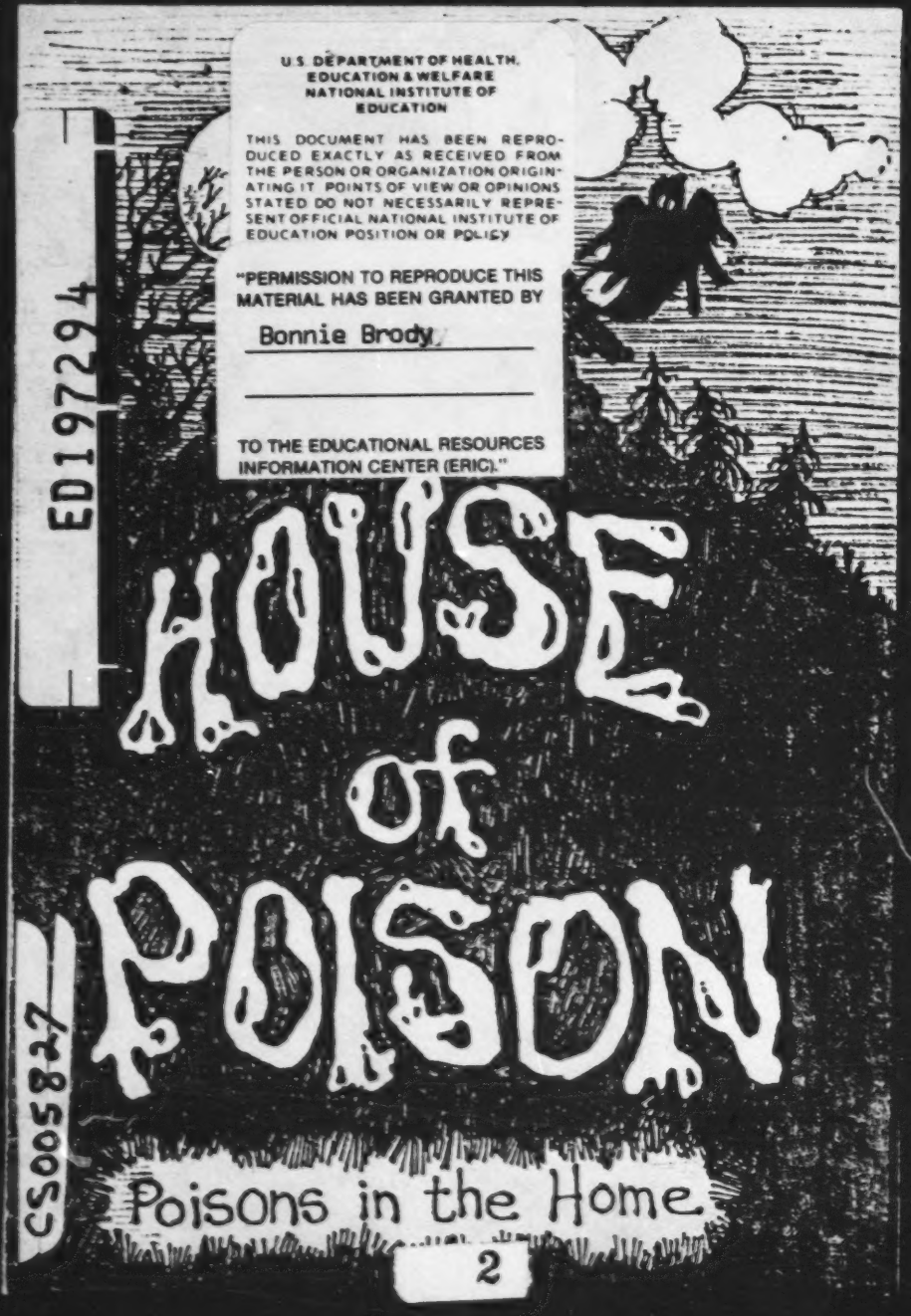

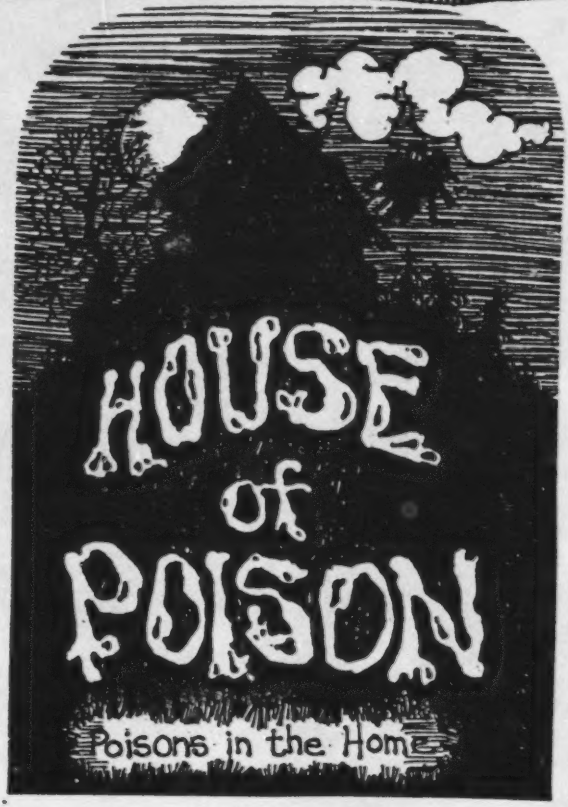

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KEY WORDS

POISON - anything you eat, drink, breathe, or touch that can cause illness or death.

VICTIM OF POISON - a person who has swallowed, breathed, drank or touched poison and is sick from it.

CONSCIOUS - awake - able to think and feel.

UNCONSCIOUS - not awake - unable to think, feel or talk.

CONVULSIONS - violent shaking that a person cannot control.

HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS - cleaners, polishes, soaps - things used in a home.

CORROSIVE - a chemical that eats away something (lye, acid, drain cleaner).

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS - such as oil, gasoline, kerosene, blazo, turpentine, etc.

PESTICIDE - a chemical used for killing insects, weeds, rodents.

VENTILATE - let fresh air in - make an opening for the escape of air.

SYMPTOMS - actions or some other thing that shows something is wrong with the body.

SEVERE - very bad.

NAUSEA - feeling of sickness in the stomach.

OVERDOSE - too much (medicine, drugs).

This is the story of a family - a family like yours or mine. If you look closely, you will see people who are like people you know.

The grown-ups in this story love the children. And they take good care of the children - they think!

Their house is like houses anywhere. It is pretty much like yours or mine.

IT IS A HOUSE OF POISON!

This story is a nightmare.

If you find YOURSELF in this story - WATCH OUT!

You could cause a DEATH,

or be a VICTIM -

of POISONS IN THE HOME!!

Ed leaned back in the chair and looked around his home. What he saw made him happy.

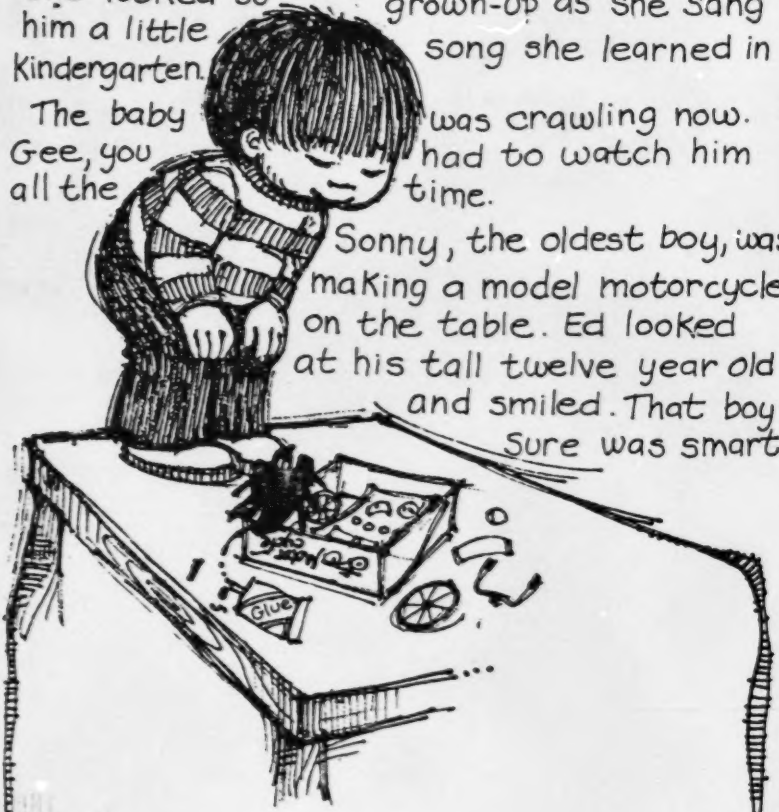
Margaret, his wife, was washing the dinner dishes. She sure liked to keep things clean. She had a whole cabinet full of soap and stuff.

"Ed" was proud of the way she kept the house.

Girlie was playing with the baby on the floor. She looked so grown-up as she sang him a little song she learned in Kindergarten.

The baby was crawling now. Gee, you had to watch him all the time.

Sonny, the oldest boy, was making a model motorcycle on the table. Ed looked at his tall twelve year old and smiled. That boy sure was smart.



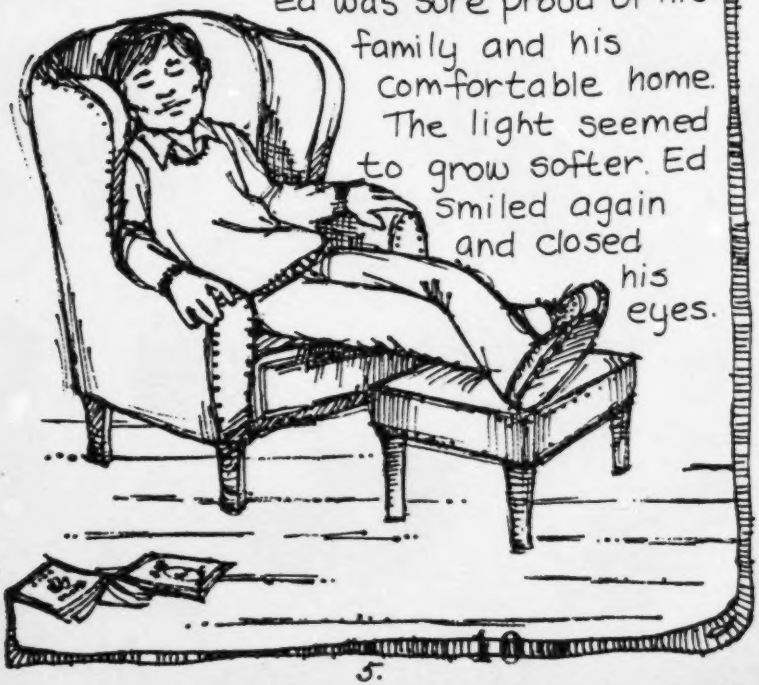
That Junior was standing on the table again, watching Sonny. "Get off the table," Ed said. Junior's feet had hardly touched the floor since his second birthday. He was always climbing something.

Ed could hear his brother, Don, banging around on the porch. He was working on the sno-go again.

Ed's old mom snored from her bed in the corner. Ed's smile left his face as he looked at her. She sure had been slowing down lately. Just like she's sick all the time.

The warmth of the light bulb over the kitchen table seemed to touch everything in the room.

Ed was sure proud of his family and his comfortable home. The light seemed to grow softer. Ed smiled again and closed his eyes.



Paint Thinner
Thinner
RED
PAINT
WHITE
PAINT
RED
PAINT

"Wonder if this is good to drink?"
"Mama said this "candy" was good for me when I had a earache!"

"Boy, am I thirsty."
"The price of gas is so high these days, we've got to save all we can. I'll just siphon some out of here."
GAS
"This feels like the right bottle."

"Maybe if I mix Ammonia with bleach it will get the floor clean."
Bleach

WHAT A TERRIBLE NIGHTMARE!

Each year in the United States- over 1,000,000 people are **Poisoned accidentally...**

From Poisons they find lying around the house!

4,000 of these people die!

The others?

They get very sick -

Sometimes for the rest of their lives!!

The sad thing is - often these victims are children.

EVERY DAY 1,000 children accidentally eat or drink poison.

There is no 1 thing that will help a **VICTIM OF ACCIDENTAL POISONING!**

THE ONLY SURE CURE IS PREVENTION!

95% of these poisonings can be

PREVENTED!

Why do these poisonings happen?

Carelessness!

People don't think of household products as poison.

They are common things,
ordinary things,
things we use all the time.

So - people don't think they have to be careful.

SOMETIMES PEOPLE JUST DON'T THINK!

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Each year there are more and more deaths caused by poisons in the home!

This is because, each year, more and more household products are made.

These things make our lives better and easier.

But -

if they are used in the **wrong way**,

-or-

if they are stored carelessly,

THEY CAN KILL!

POISONS LURK EVERYWHERE IN THE HOME !!!!

In the kitchen..

Even the Food Cupboards

- Food extracts - Vanilla, almond, maple - are powerful poisons if taken straight from the bottle, undiluted.

In the Housekeeping Closet

- Furniture Polish
- Floor Wax
- Metal Polish
- Wax Remover
- Wall Cleaner
- Ammonia
- Floor Cleaner
- Toilet Bowl Cleaner

Under the Sink

- Detergent
- Drain cleaner
- Scouring Powder
- Oven Cleaner
- Bleach

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BEDROOM

- Cologne
- Face Cream
- Sleeping Pills
- Other Medicines

UTILITY AREAS

- Turpentine
- Paint, Varnish
- Paint Thinner
- Pesticides
- Dyes
- Charcoal Starter
- Drain Opener
- Lye
- Glues
- Rat Poison
- Gasoline
- Kerosene

THE BATHROOM

Medicine cabinets can hold deadly poisons...

- Aspirin
- Prescriptions
- Rubbing Alcohol
- Liniment
- Laxatives
- Boric Acid
- Shampoo
- Hair Spray
- Bowl Cleaner
- After Shave
- Hair Tonic

Alcohol is poison too!

(gin, whiskey, beer, wine)

House plants can be dangerous too –

KEEP THEM OUT OF THE REACH OF SMALL CHILDREN!

If it isn't food, it may be poison!

HOW CAN YOU PROTECT THIS LITTLE GUY?

1. Put all soaps, detergents, cleansers, polishes, lye products, toilet cleaners, disinfectants, floor wax, and bleach in a high place - **OUT OF SIGHT!** It is best to

LOCK IT ALL UP!!

2. Lock all medicines - even vitamins - in a high cabinet.

3. Buy medicine and household products with **" SAFETY PACKAGING"** -

- "Child proof" tops on bottles.
- Bottles made so only a little liquid comes out at once.
- Spray cans and bottles made so children cannot use them.

NEVER LEAVE A SMALL CHILD ALONE-

even to answer the phone - or the door!

Take the child with you!

HOW CAN YOU KEEP THIS FAST LITTLE CLIMBER SAFE?

1. Call medicines by their real names - say "penicillin" or "aspirin" or "vitamins" or medicine.
   NEVER CALL MEDICINE "CANDY"!
2. Never put a household product, medicine or petroleum product into another bottle or container.
3. Remember -
   aspirin is a **DANGEROUS KILLER!**
   Keep all aspirin - even baby aspirin
   LOCKED UP IN A MEDICINE CABINET!
4. Never put medicine on window ledges or bedside tables. **AND** - remember, after you use them - **PUT THEM AWAY!**
5. Children are very interested in **SPRAY CANS!** But they can spray them into their eyes. **KEEP THEM LOCKED UP!**

NEVER LEAVE A SMALL CHILD ALONE EVEN TO GO TO THE BATHROOM!

Take the child with you.

WHAT ABOUT THESE YOUNG PEOPLE?

1. Explain how dangerous each product is. Read the caution labels and warnings on packages, bottles and cans **WITH THEM!**

2. Remind them to put dangerous products like glue, paint and ink pens in a safe, high place away from small children.

3. Tell them never to drink or eat anything when they don't know what it is or whose it is. This goes for berries, mushrooms and plants!

4. Make it a rule never to put any **POISONOUS** thing into -
   - pop bottles
   - milk cartons
   - bottles, jars, jugs
   - cereal or candy boxes
   - cake tins or coffee cans!

5. Explain about fumes - that breathing the fumes of petroleum products, glues and some household products can be just as deadly as eating or drinking them!

You can talk to them AND you can get their help too.

PREVENT POISONS IN YOUR HOME!

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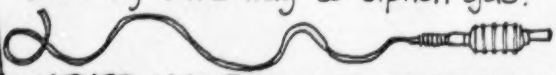
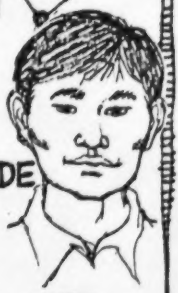
HOW CAN POISONING BE PREVENTED WITH ADULTS?

1. Learn the facts about fumes.
Most adults know that the fumes from gas, charcoal grills, space heaters and even woodstoves can kill!

2. Do not siphon gas by mouth.
If you swallow gas you can get very sick.
If you swallow gas and vomit-
-or if you suck gas into your lungs-
YOU CAN DIE!
(You get chemical pneumonia)

Use a "siphon pump" with a clear hose. Siphon pumps only cost about $2.00 at a hardware store. A siphon pump is the only safe way to siphon gas!





3. **NEVER MIX PRODUCTS THAT ARE MADE WITH BLEACH WITH PRODUCTS THAT ARE MADE WITH AMMONIA!!**
(the fumes are deadly poison)
They can even explode!!

4. Read **directions** and **warnings** on household products.
It is just as important to know how **NOT** to use a product, as it is to know how **TO** use it.

5. Always use medicines properly.
Follow the Doctor's orders.

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MEDICINES CAN BE KILLERS!

1. Keep medicines locked up - away from children.
2. Keep your medicine cabinet neat.
3. Never take medicine unless prescribed by a doctor.
   a. Never give a prescription drug prescribed for one person to someone else.
   b. Never save prescription drugs for the next time.
4. Keep medicines in the containers or bottles they come in.
5. Mark bottles of poisonous products and medicines with a big red mark. Tape the lids closed.
6. Be sure all medicines come with SAFETY TOPS - BUT DON'T TRUST THEM - LOCK THEM UP!!
7. READ THE LABEL each time before taking medicine - even aspirin.
8. Never take medicine in the dark.
9. FOLLOW THE DOCTOR'S ORDERS!
10. NEVER THINK "If a little medicine is good - a lot would be better."

KEEP MEDICINES LOCKED UP - HIGH - AWAY FROM CHILDREN!!

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PEOPLE DON'T THINK OF ORDINARY THINGS AS POISON

Inspect your house regularly to make sure

ALL POISONS ARE OUT OF REACH !!

Think of household chemicals as being as dangerous as a gun or a knife.

Store them as you would any dangerous thing.

BE CAREFUL OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

Store petroleum products (gas, kerosene, blazo, oil) in a well-ventilated place

OUTSIDE OF THE HOUSE!

Don't work with petroleum products in a closed area.

NEVER put these products in a food or drink container.

Label petroleum products well.

Even if you don't have small children--

DON'T FORGET GRANDCHILDREN OR THE NEIGHBOR'S KIDS !!

Put harmless things (pots and pans, canned foods, cereal, sugar, flour) in the lower cabinets.

PUT THE CLEANING THINGS HIGH away from littie hands.

Watch out for your purse.

DON'T KEEP MEDICINES THERE FOR LITTLE HANDS TO FIND !!

Just to be on the safe side--have emergency numbers by the phone!

HOW CAN YOU TELL IF A PERSON HAS BEEN POISONED ?

If a person shows these signs he or she may have been poisoned:

- Sudden sleepiness
- unconsciousness
- bad stomach pains
- convulsions
- shallow breathing
- jumpiness
- burns on the mouth or hands
- nausea
- change in skin color
- severe headache

THINGS TO LOOK FOR:

1. Open bottles or containers.
2. Things out of place (especially medicines or cosmetics or household cleaners).

CHECK SMALL CHILDREN FOR:

1. Stains and odors on their hands or clothes or mouth.
2. Sudden changes of behavior.
3. Vomiting.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU THINK SOMEONE HAS BEEN POISONED....

1. Have someone call the doctor, hospital or * village health aide – **FAST!!**
2. Get the victim to drink milk or water (if the victim is conscious and not having convulsions).
3. **FIND THE POISON!** Save the container and all that is left in it for the doctor. **(TAKE THIS CONTAINER WITH YOU.)**

*IF THE POISON IS A PETROLEUM PRODUCT OR A CORROSIVE ...

→ DON'T DO ANYTHING ELSE!! ←

DON'T MAKE THE VICTIM VOMIT!!

Corrosives

- drain cleaner
- oven cleaner
- toilet bowl cleaner
- corn and wart remover
- grease remover

Petroleum Products

- furniture polish
- metal cleaner
- typewriter cleaner
- gun cleaner
- turpentine
- paint thinner
- kerosene
- gasoline
- lighter fluid
- wood preservatives
- brush cleaner

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Only make a person vomit if they are awake, they are not convulsing and they did not swallow a corrosive poison.

TO MAKE THE VICTIM VOMIT

1. Make him drink a teaspoon of salt or baking soda in a glass of water.

or..

2. Stick your finger gently on the back of his tongue.
3. When the victim starts to gag.... hold his head over a basin.

KEEP THE BASIN OF VOMIT FOR THE DOCTOR!

4. After the victim vomits, give him warm water or milk.

NEVER GIVE ANYTHING ALCOHOLIC!!

What if it is FUME POISONING?

1. Get air into the area (smash a window if you have to)
2. Move victim outside into open air.
3. Call a health aide, doctor, police or hospital.
4. Begin artificial respiration (keep it up until victim is breathing normally).

Then keep the victim quiet.

DON'T GIVE FOOD OR DRINK!

It was only a nightmare for Ed's family

Don't let it come true for yours!!

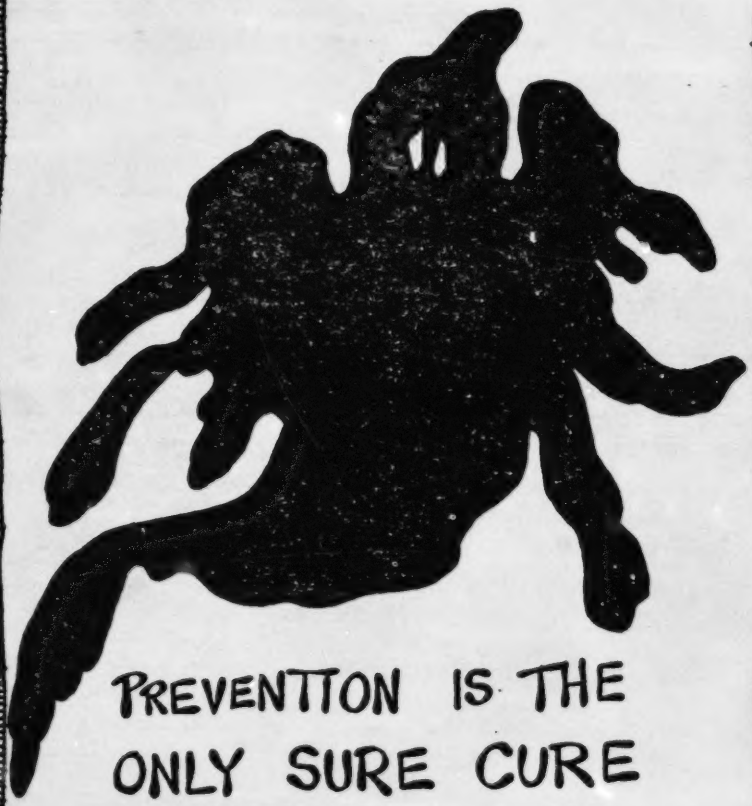
Check your house to be sure it is not a

HOUSE OF POISON!

PREVENTION is the only **SURE CURE** for **POISONING!** 30

Don't let your house be a

HOUSE OF POISON!



PREVENTTON IS THE ONLY SURE CURE FOR POISONING!!!

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